

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 05113 040948Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06

SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04

CEA-01 PA-02 PRS-01 /092 W

-----079399 042149Z /65

R 040803Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8369

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS KUALA LUMPUR 5113

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEAN, ETRD, MY

SUBJECT: ASEAN: MEETING OF ECONOMIC MINISTERS

1. FOLLOWING THE MEETING OF ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS ON AUGUST 3 DATO HAMZAH ABU SAMAH, MALAYSIAN MINISTER FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, ANNOUNCED THAT THE MINISTERS HAD DECIDED THAT MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA SHOULD LAUNCH THEIR UREA PROJECTS "AS SOON AS POSSIBLE." HE SAID THEY EXPECTED THE INDONESIAN PROJECT TO START IN MID-1978. AS TO THE OTHER THREE PROJECTS (SODA ASH IN THAILAND, DIESEL ENGINES IN SINGAPORE AND PHOSPHATES IN THE PHILIPPINES) FINAL DECISION WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT COMPLETION OF FEASIBILITY STUDIES WHICH WERE CURRENTLY UNDERWAY.

2. HAMZAH ALSO SAID THAT THE JAPANESE HAD NOT FULLY COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO LENDING ASEAN \$1 BILLION FOR THE FIVE
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PAGE 02 KUALA 05113 040948Z

PROJECTS. THEY WERE CONSIDERING IT BUT THEIR FINAL DECISION WILL DEPEND UPON WHETHER THEY BELIEVE THE PROJECTS ARE VIABLE.

3.. THE ECONOMIC MINISTERS ALSO DEALTH WITH THE FOLLOWING MATTERS WHICH WILL BE INCLUDED IN THEIR DRAFT REPORT ON ECONOMIC MATTERS FOR SUBMISSION TO THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT:

(A) COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION,
ESPECIALLY THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ASEAN SUBMARINE CABLE SYSTEM
AND A STUDY OF AN ASEAN REGIONAL SATELLITE SYSTEM.

(B) PROMOTION OF INTER-COUNTRY MAIL AND REMITTANCE SERVICES.

(C) EXCHANGE OF TRAINING EXPERTISE TO UPGRADE RAILWAY SERVICES.

(D) TRANSPORT BY ROAD, RAIL AND FERRY AND UNIFORMITY OF ROAD
AND TRAFFIC REGULATIONS.

(E) THE ACCELERATION, HARMONIZATION, EXPANSION AND MODERNIZATION
OF ASEAN NATIONAL MARITIME FLEETS.

(F) THE ORGANIZATION OF AN ASEAN SHIPPING CONFERENCE.

(G) AGREEMENT ON PETROLEUM SHARING PROGRAMS IN THE EVENT OF
EMERGENCY SHORTAGES.

MILLER

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Message Attributes

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